

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 01067 051842Z

43

ACTION AF-06

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: MPLA OFFICIALS DISCUSS THE CURRENT SITUATION

1. I TALKED ON AUGUST 4 WITH THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION SERVICES  
IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, LUIS DE ALMEIDA, AN MPLA OFFICIAL,  
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION RUI MONTEIRO, ALSO MPLA, WHO DROPPED  
IN DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH ALMEIDA.

2. ALMEIDA SAID THAT THE AI AND UPI CORRESPONDENTS NOW IN LUANDA  
WERE IN DANGER OF BEING EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF  
THEIR CHARACTERIZATION OF MPLA AS A MARXIST. OR COMMUNIST, ORGAN-  
IZATION. THEIR BIASED REPORTING HAS ALSO PUT THEM IN PHYSICAL  
JEOPARDY, BECAUSE MPLA TROOPS MIGHT DECIDE TO GO LOOKING FOR THEM.  
HE REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE REUTERS STRINGER (LUANDA  
1056) AND EMPHASIZED THAT MPLA IS NOT COMMUNIST OR ANTI-COMMUNIST;  
IT IS NATIONALISTIC, IT IS AUTHENTICALLY ANGOLA, AND THOSE WHO DO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 01067 051842Z

NOT RECOGNIZE THIS SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THE

COUNTRY.

3. ALMEIDA WENT ON TO SAY THAT RADIO IN ANGOLA IS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IN GOVERNMENT HANDS AND THE PRESS WILL BE, SOONER OR LATER. "O COMERCIO," A LUNDA DAILY, IS OWNED BY A BANK THAT HAS BEEN NATIONALIZED AND THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING PLACING A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PAPER. WITH THE FLIGHT FROM THE COUNTRY OF PES EDITOR, RUY CORREIA DE FREITAS, "O JORNAL DE ANGOLA," IS IN THE HANDS OF OF AN EDITORIAL BOARD WHICH HAS CONTINUED THE PRO-FNLA POLICIES OF THE PAPER. "O JORNAL DE ANGOLA" DEPENDS FOR ITS REVENUES ON ADVERTISING BY WHITES AND WITH THE FLIGHT OF SOME MANY WHITES, THE DAILY CANNOT LONG SURVIVE. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS CONTINUING TO TRY AND OBTAIN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACTS WITH WIRE SERVICES. IF REUTERS DO NOT COOPERATE AFTER ITY PRESENT CONTRACTS RUN OUT, IT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN ANGOLA.

4. ALMEIDA SAID THAT IF THE U.S. DID NOT SUPPORT THE FNLA, THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE SO ENMESHED IN STRIFE. I REPLIED THAT OUR POLICY IS ONE OF IMPARTIALITY AND THAT WE NOT ONLY HAVE NOT SUPPLIED ARMS TO THE FNLA, BUT HAVE ALSO REMINDED THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED UNDER OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. AS FOR MISINFORMATION, I SAID, STORIES LIKE THAT PUT OUT BY NITO ALVES THAT THE ARMORED CARS USED BY THE FNLA ARE AMERICAN ONLY SERVE TO EXCERBATE HARD FEELINGS AND CONFUSE THE ISSUE. I GWVE THEM THE BACKGROUND AND MONTEIRO ASKED ALMEIDA TO CHECK IT WOUT WITH ALVES.

5. ALMEIDA SAID NOW THAT FNLA HAS DECLARED WAR ON MPLA, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD. THE FNLA WILL BE DEFEATED AND THE COUNTRY WILL NOT BE PARTITIONED. AN FNLA CONFINED TO NORTHERN ANGOLA WILL SOON HAVE TO SUE FOR TERMS. NOT ONLY CAN THE REGION NOT SUSTAIN ITSELF, BUT A SIZEABLE PORTION OF THE POPULATION IN PRO-MPLA AND WOULD SUPPORT IT IF GIVEN HALF A CHANCE. THE FNLA IS COMPOSED OF SAVAGES AND LED BY MERCENARIES. MPLA HAS FNLA SURROUNDED IN CAXITO. MPLA HAD TO WITHDRAW FROM QUIBALA, ON THE ROAD TO NOVA LISBOA, BUT WILL COUNTER ATTACK. MPLA FORCES HAVE ROUTED FNLA IN NOVO REDONDO, PORTO AMBOIM AND GAVELA. FNLA HAS NO CHANCES TO SURVIVE IN LOBITO OR BENGUELA. ALMEIDA LOOKS FOR AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN MPLA AND UNITA AFTER

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LUANDA 01067 051842Z

THE FIGHTING IS OVER. WHEN I RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SECESSION OF CABINDA AS A RESULT OF THE CHAOS IN ANGOLA PROPER, ALMEIDA SAID THAT MPLA HAD THE CAPABILITY TO DZFEND THE DISTRICT. MPLA IS STRONG THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND GAINING IN STRENGTH. JUST IN LUANDA ALONE, HE SAID, MPLA CAN COUNT ON 50,000 MILITANTS, MANY OF THEM WITH ARMS. THERE IS NO WAY THE FNLA CAN GET INTO THE CITY. THE 75 FOREIGN JOURNALISTS NOW IN ANGOLA AWAITING THE FNLA GRAND NWRCH INTO THE CITY ARE GOING TOHBE DISAPPOINTED, HE CON-

CLUDED.

6. I TOLD ALMEIDA THAT I HAD HEARD NITO ALVES HAD BEEN SHORN OF SOME OF HIS FUNCTIONS. HE SAID THAT ALVES IS STILL ONE OF THE KEY OFFICERS IN THE GENERAL STAFF AND A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU. WE THEN TURNED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE MPLA HIERARCHY. ALMEIDA SAID THAT AGOSTINHO NETO SITS ASTRIDE A POLITICAL BUREAU OF NINE MEN AND A CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THIRTY-NINE MEMBERS. THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING HOW THE MOVEMENT FUNCTIONS, HE ADDED, IS TO KNOW THAT THE POLITICAL BUREAU IS ASSISTED BY A FEW SHADOW MEMBERS WHOSE IDENTITY IS SECRET. ANOTHER IMPORTANT FEATURE IS THAT MANY MPLA POLICY DECISIONS ARE THE RESULT OF PRESSURES FROM BELOW. THERE IS A CONSTANT FLOW OF IDEAS AND OPINIONS AND THE LEADERSHIP TAKES THE VIEWS OF THE BASE INTO ACCOUNT, ALTHOUGH AT TIMES THE LEADERS GO AGAINST POPULAR OPINION. FOR EXAMPLE, SAID ALMEIDA, THE BASE WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO MPLA PARTICIPATION IN THE NAKURU SUMMIT MEETING.

7. I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH ALMEIDA FOR SOME MONTHS TO GET HIM TO SELECT A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN INFORMATION SERVICES TO VISIT THE U.S. UNDER STATE DEPARTMENT AUSPICES. I TOLD HIM THE BEST WAY TO DO IT IS FOR HIM TO GIVE ME THE NAMES OF THOSE HE WANTS TO SEND AND I CAN THEN SET THINGS UP WITH WASHINGTON. I SAID THOSE SELECTED SHOULD BE AT LEAST MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO STAY ON IN THE GOVERNMENT. ONCE I HAVE THE NAMES AND INTERESTS OF THE GROUP I WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. WE HAD ORIGINALLY TALKED ABOUT ONE OFFICIAL FROM EACH MOVEMENT BUT IT IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT TO GET AN FNLA REPRESENTATIVE. ALMEIDA HIMSELF WANTS TO GO TO THE U.S. UNDER STATE DEPARTMENT AUSPICES, PROBABLY NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, HOWEVER. I TOLD HIM I AM READY WHENEVER HE IS TO SET UP A PROGRAM.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 LUANDA 01067 051842Z

8. COMMENT: ALMEIDA IS A FRIEND OF AGOSTINHO NETO, BUT NOT A MEMBER OF THE MOVEMENT'S INNER GROUP. WHAT HE SAYS REFLECTS LEADERSHIP DECISIONS, SO THAT WE CAN BE CERTAIN THE MPLA HAS A STRATEGY TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MEDIA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH ALMEIDA DID NOT MENTION TELEVISION, I KNOW THAT MPLA HAS PUT ITS OWN PEOPLE IN THE KEY JOBS IN RPA, THE STILL NOT OPERATIVE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION ENTITY.  
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